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                      UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                      EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
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                            EASTERN DIVISION
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     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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          Plaintiff,
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                                )No. 4:09-CR-00572 HEA
          v.
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     ANTOINE S. REED,
         Defendant.
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                           SENTENCING HEARING
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                  BEFORE THE HONORABLE HENRY E. AUTREY
                      UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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                            JANUARY 24, 2011
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     APPEARANCES:
    For Plaintiff:
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                         Michael A. Bert, Esq.
                         OFFICE OF U.S. ATTORNEY
17
                         111 South Tenth Street, 20th Floor
                         St. Louis, MO 63102
18
     For Defendant:
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                         Clayton, MO 63105
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     REPORTED BY:
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                         Official Court Reporter
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                         United States District Court
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        PRODUCED BY COURT REPORTER COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION
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(PROCEEDINGS STARTED AT 12:50 P.M.)

(THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HELD IN OPEN COURT AND WITH THE DEFENDANT PRESENT.)

THE COURT: This is the matter of United States of America versus Antoine S. Reed, case number 4:09-CR-572 HEA.

The matter is now before the Court for purposes of sentencing pursuant to the defendant's entry of a plea of guilty to Count One, possession with the intent to distribute in excess of 50 grams of cocaine base; Count Two, possession of a firearm during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; and Count Three, felon in possession of a firearm. Sentencing was deferred pending receipt of a presentence investigation report which the Court has received and reviewed in its entirety.

Let the record now reflect that the defendant is now present in open court with counsel, Mr. Gilbert Sison, and the Government is present through Mr. Michael Bert. Mr. Sison, on behalf of the defendant, are you ready to proceed?

MR. SISON: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Bert, on behalf of the Government, are you ready to proceed?

MR. BERT: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Have you had the opportunity to review the presentence investigation report in this matter with your client, Mr. Sison?

MR. SISON: Yes, we have, Your Honor, and we have no

1 objections to the report. 2 THE COURT: Any objections on behalf of the 3 Government? 4 MR. BERT: None, Your Honor. THE COURT: There being no objections to the factual 5 6 statements set forth in the report or to the way in which the 7 drafter has applied the guidelines in their advisory capacity, the Court concludes that as to Count One, the guideline range 8 9 is 322 to 387 months; as to Count Two, there is a mandatory 10 minimum of 60 months consecutive to other counts; and Count 11 Three also has a mandatory minimum of 15 years. Having thusly 12 concluded, are we ready to proceed with sentencing? 13 MR. SISON: We are, Your Honor. 14 THE COURT: All right. Let the record also reflect 15 that certain motions have been filed and a memorandum 16 regarding sentencing have been filed. Do you want to address 17 those matters now, Counsel? 18 MR. SISON: Yes, Your Honor. I'd note that Mr. Reed 19 has -- it's up to you how you want to proceed, Judge. I'll 20 have some non-quideline arguments that I'd like to make. 21 Obviously, we will have to address the issue of the 22 Government's motion at some point, and then I know Mr. Reed 23 has a prepared statement he'd like to make to the Court as 24 well. 25 THE COURT: Why don't we take up the Government's

motion at this time.

MR. SISON: Okay.

THE COURT: Side bar.

(A Bench Conference Was Held On the Record and Outside of the Hearing of the Courtroom As Follows:)

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. BERT: The Government filed a motion pursuant to 5K1.1 for a downward departure from the advisory guideline range, and I think it's mostly summed up in that motion the nature and the extent of the defendant's assistance with the Government. Basically, it consists of him giving information that led agents with DEA to identify people on a Title III wire, able to identify names of people, places, and specific transactions which they were able to make use of in an ongoing investigation. Further, he also gave information relative to activities, illegal activities, going on over at the St. Louis City Justice Center. That matter is actually still ongoing and under investigation.

MR. SISON: Judge, just for the record, just to let you know, he has proffered on three occasions, and each of those proffers lasted for a couple of hours at least. The first proffer was at our insistence. The second proffer was at the request of one of the agents which I think led to the information that was the basis of the motion, and the third proffer was also at our insistence as well because he had come

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into additional information about ongoing criminal activities at the St. Louis Justice Center including, for example, the distribution of contraband, the use of unauthorized visits, conjugal visits, and whatnot, but also there was an incident with a city co-defendant who was trying to pass him a letter to get to someone in the federal pod -- basically like an obstruction of justice trying to silent the witness -- and he informed the Government of that. I don't know what's come of that. Obviously, I'm pretty sure that information was forwarded to the City Circuit Attorney's Office.

That being said, Judge, you know, the Government did not make a recommendation as to the number or what the appropriate departure should be, but if we just took it from the advisory guideline range at 322, historically speaking, it's been my experience, Judge, my limited experience, that when any defendant has given information, usually on average, it's, you know, more or less around 30, 33 percent. If you just use that little number as a rule of thumb, 33 percent off the low end of that guideline range goes down to 210, which is a little bit under the 20-year range. And then obviously, we believe it should be lower than that because of the non-violent factors which we will address at the podium. point is, Judge, you know, he has expressed concern because of his cooperation. I think I relayed back to the judge in chambers that he's been jumped in the City Justice Center

6 1 because the thing in his PSR indicated that the Government might file a 5K1.1. Because of that, he has come up to me and 2 3 he has asked the Government to explore the possibility of 4 putting him into a WitSec prison. His mother, who is still out there, has been getting calls as to why he might be 5 6 cooperating against I think -- and Mr. Bert can correct me --7 but I think it was Demetrius Reed that was the individual that 8 he gave information on. Apparently it has gotten out, and his 9 mother has received phone calls as to why is he doing what he is doing. And so obviously Mr. Reed is afraid for his family 10 in addition to himself, and we think that counts for some 11 12 consideration in determining the appropriate departure. 13 MR. BERT: The Government has nothing further to add, 14 Your Honor. 15 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 16 (The Following Proceedings Were Held Within the Hearing and Presence of the Jury.) 17 THE COURT: Anything specifically with regard to 18 19 allocution, Mr. Sison? 20 MR. SISON: Yes, Your Honor. And I'll be brief 21 because obviously everything is outlined in the sentencing 22 memorandum. Judge, in addition to the departure, we believe the Court should also take into account the factors identified 23 in 18 USC 3553(a) and to make some consideration for a 24

non-guideline sentence; in other words, a further departure

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from what a typical range would be expected from the Government's motion. A couple things I would like to point out, Judge, obviously, he has a very violent history. There is no question about that. Mr. Reed has been in trouble with the law since he was 17 or 18, but if you look closely at his record, I am not trying to downplay any of the things that he has done and I don't think Mr. Reed is either, but if you look at the time scale of when these offenses occurred, it occurred when he was 17 or 18, about 12, 13 years ago, a time when he left school to go live on the streets. And why did he go live on the streets? Well, the PSR identifies several factors which led him that way; in other words, the physical abuse and the other abuse that he received while he was growing up.

Growing up, let's be honest, he didn't get much of a life growing up. You know, obviously some of that is due in part to Mr. Reed and his obstinacy and his stubbornness, but it's also due in large part to how he grew up. He didn't have the lifestyles that we had. Again, we are not making excuses for it, Judge. All we are trying to say is that his criminal activities must be placed in that context. You know, and here's what happens. He picks up an assault first, and I don't know if a lot of people know this, but, you know, his capacity for doing bad things but also doing things that show some rehabilitation is also pretty evident. The first thing he did when he got out of prison — he relayed this story to

me in our many conversations -- but he relayed the story to me how he sought out the person that he had assaulted, and he apologized to her. Not a lot of defendants do that. Not a lot of defendants have that cognizance to reach out to someone that they had affected, a victim that they affected, and to reach out and say, look, I'm sorry for what I have done to you, it wasn't what I wanted to do -- I mean, I apologize for what I did. He clearly has anger management issues, Judge. There is no question about that, but he's never been conditioned to respond any other way other than violence. His mother had a noted anger problem. He had an anger problem. You know, that's the only way he knows how to associate and deal with people.

And if you think about it, Judge, you know, he picks up the assault first, he gets probation on an assault first and trafficking, and then literally four and five months later, he picks up his second and third trafficking charge, which basically for lack of a better term demolishes him because it puts him in prison for ten years. So since 17, he's been in prison. He got out in '08, September of '08 if I'm not mistaken, on parole, and then his supervision was completed sometime in '09, and he picked up the instant offense I believe in August of '09, and since then he's been incarcerated ever since. So this gentleman who is now age 30, from the time that he is 17 to now 30, he's only experienced

11 months outside of a jail setting. And let's be honest, his time in the Missouri Department of Corrections aside from a GED was not for lack of a better term productive. I mean, the PSR notes that he was not given any type of substance abuse treatment while in the DOC, even though there were records showing that he had cannabis problems in a juvenile detention facility. When he got out on parole, he wasn't even put on community supervision, wasn't required to drop, wasn't required to do any drops. The problem is, he actually got exposed to heroin while in the DOC, which further led him — he got addicted, and he stated in the PSR that he used it every day until he was arrested.

So, of course, what does he do? What does he do when he gets out to perpetuate his addiction? He sells drugs.

Unfortunately for him, it destroyed him because that additional offense given his criminal history makes him a career offender, and because he is a career offender, he is looking at 322 to 367 months. 322 months, the low end of that range, represents 27 years, 27 years. I'm not saying that Mr. Reed shouldn't be punished, he should. Any sentence that you give him should reflect, you know, enforcement of the law and should reflect just punishment, but by the same token, it gets to a point where it gets to be too much. What will a 15-year sentence or a 13 or 14-year sentence accomplish that a 27-year sentence won't? You know, they're both lengthy. He

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is going to be incapacitated for a lengthy period of time.

And if anything, Judge, if anything, he actually hopefully will get better treatment in the BOP than he did in the DOC.

Here's what he needs. He obviously needs mental health treatment. He obviously needs substance abuse treatment, and he probably needs some sort of psychiatric counseling to deal with his anger issues and the multiple issues that were identified in the presentence report. So hopefully the criminal justice system won't fail him. I mean, the criminal justice system can't just be about punishment because that is really what we focus on all the time is how much time can we put him in jail when it doesn't really resolve the root cause of the problem. What caused the criminality in the first place. Can we do anything to rehabilitate him. Are we going to make any efforts to focus on rehabilitation. If there is no efforts like that, Judge, then there is no justice. Justice cannot be about punishment It must be also about rehabilitation. You know, and given the circumstances that he's been dealt with, given the cards that he was dealt with, you know, I don't think it's that far of a stretch to be asking what we are asking for here. It's still a significant term. It's still a significant sentence. He is going to be locked away for a long period of time. So in terms of -- I mean, if he is not going to learn anything in 13 or 14 years, then he is never

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going to learn. He is not going to learn in 20 or 27. That is the point. What's the minimally sufficient sentence to impose.

Maybe what we should do is look at it from another perspective. Maybe we should say, you know what, all this time, aside from the first judge that sentenced him to his assault first and gave him probation, maybe what he needs is a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel. Maybe, you know, because he's turned the corner and I think the Government's motion indicates that, and I think I've identified a couple of reasons why I believe he's turned the corner, maybe we should give him some hope, some faith; in other words, give him the benefit of the doubt. If you impose what we're requesting, he'll be getting out when he's 42 or 43 If that's not going to teach him, then nothing will obviously, and obviously if he picks up another case, he's gone for life. We all know that. Maybe what he needs is some semblance of hope, someone to place some trust in him, to believe in him that maybe, just maybe, you might have turned the corner, and because of that, I will give you the light at the end of the tunnel. I will give you the break that you need. It's still significant, but by the same token hopefully you will get help, and hopefully you can make some sort of productive life out of yourself.

I mean, look, you know I've been in front of you and

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in front of judges in this district all the time. defendant that I represent, I provide them this 256-page list of things that you can get in BOP. In the four years that I have worked with Scott, not one defendant has come back to me and said, Yeah, you know, I liked that program over at FCI so and so, or yeah, I liked that program at FCI so and so. I visited Mr. Reed last night, I gave him this document about two weeks ago right before he was sentenced, and I came back, and he actually had a whole list of things that he wanted to do. FCI Reno had an electrician's class. FCI Greenville had a business class. He identified four or five facilities which unfortunately I was sort of, you know, I would love to get you in FCI Reno, I am just not sure if you are going to qualify for that, and I don't control what the BOP does, and even if you made the recommendation, there is no guarantee he is going to get there either, you know.

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The point is, Judge, is that there is at least some hope for him, you know. I mean, I don't think we should just throw away the key. That's the easy solution. I mean, the easy solution to protect the public, throw him away for 20 years. Fine. You know, we don't have to deal with him. But is that the right solution is the question this Court has to answer. That's all I'm asking, Judge, is you take into consideration his circumstances. I'm not trying to make excuses for his past. It's a bad one, no question about it,

but by the same token, I think he produces some hope that he actually might be able to make something of himself. And I can tell you that a lot of defendants, sometimes I believe that they can do it, more often times I don't think they can. He is one of the ones, you know, dealing with him day in and day out over the past two years in dealing with this case I think actually might have a shot. And I told him, you know, I don't make this promise to any defendant, but I told him that when he gets out of prison, whenever that might be, you know, despite his violent past, despite what I know of his character and his history, I told him if you're ever having a problem finding a job, call me, and I'll do something to help you out. I don't do that for everybody.

You know, I'm going to have three kids soon, you know, and, you know, I am totally comfortable with Mr. Reed despite knowing of his past, and all I ask is -- I can't explain to you how I've been able to develop a relationship over the past couple years that I have, but all I'm asking, Judge, is I feel comfortable with him. I think he can make the change. He's going to have some words to say to you that hopefully will lead you to think or at least give you some pause for thought as to whether he actually can make that change, and I am hoping that you will at least take that into consideration in handing out a just and fair punishment.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bert.

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MR. BERT: Your Honor, just to review his prior criminal record, the best way to sum it up would be a history of violence, which he has assault first convictions and also his history of selling drugs. I mean, he's got a prior for second assault I believe and then also one for assault in the first degree and armed criminal action, and I believe the rest are all involved in the sale of narcotics. And he talked a great deal of time about let's not throw away the key, lock him up and throw away the key. I mean, that's not really what the Government is requesting here. Had we been requesting that, we would have filed the enhancements under 851, which I believe would have mandated a life sentence, so that is not what we are requesting. We, of course, would certainly make the request for a fair and reasonable sentence that would, number one, protect the community from Mr. Reed and the drug sales and the violence while he has a sufficient amount of time to get whatever treatment or help or rehabilitation he may need, and that may require a much longer period of time for which he's been incarcerated in the past. So we've made arguments at side bar, but certainly, Your Honor, the Government respectfully requests that you take into consideration the nature of his prior criminal history and sentence him to a just term.

THE COURT: Mr. Reed.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Go ahead.

definition of law or by definition of terms; however, just as you have a career in law, at some point you will retire from it. In the Bible, the Apostle Paul spent the former part of his life persecuting Christians only to later become one himself. Speaking of Paul, he stated in Romans 13, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and the authority that exists are appointed by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same."

I understand that the reason I stand before you today is not because I was right, and you all, the authorities, was somehow wrong, because if I was doing good, just as Paul says, I would have nothing to fear, but that is not the case with me. I was wrong, and that is why I am afraid as I stand before you today. Believe it or not, most criminals don't view ourselves as villains and the Government -- don't view ourselves as criminals or should I say villains and the Government as good guys. Instead, most of us see ourselves as good guys or just as minor villains, whereas the authorities

we view as like huge mega villains. This makes it easier for us to justify our behavior, but just as in Romans 13 says,

Whoever goes against the authorities goes against God, and even the criminal knows that anyone who goes against God can never be justified. All of this may seem simple to you, but believe it or not when God revealed this to me not long ago, it really had a profound effect on me. I mean, every word in the Bible where it speaks of the wicked, I felt like it was speaking about me, and all of a sudden, I understood why the Government fights so hard to lock people like me up and throw away the key. But is that really the right answer?

Now obviously, that is not my decision to make, and

Now obviously, that is not my decision to make, and

I'm sure it's pretty obvious what my response would be if I

was asked that question. I just ask you today to please

before you make your decision, I ask before you make your

decision, ask yourself do you think I can change. Do you

think that I can ever get -- do you think that I can ever get

it together, and if so, do you think that locking me up,

locking me away so long that I have nothing to come home to,

will be the right solution to this problem. I understand that

I deserve prison at this point, but please leave me some hope

to a life when this is all over. Please leave me some hope of

putting pieces of my life together after this is all over.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Reed. Any legal cause why sentence should not now be imposed?

MR. SISON: None, Your Honor.

MR. BERT: No, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: No legal cause having been shown why sentence should not now be imposed, allocution having been granted, and in consideration of the motion heretofore filed, the arguments of counsel, and the matters set forth in defendant's sentencing memorandum, and pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act as well as the provisions of 18 USC 3553(a), it will be the order and judgment of the Court that as to Count One, defendant be remanded to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for a term of 160 months; as to Count Two, defendant be remanded to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for a term of 60 months; and as to Count Three, a term of 160 months. The sentences imposed in Counts One and Three are to be run concurrently for a total of 160 months. imposed in Count Two is to be run consecutively to the sentences in One and Three for an aggregate sentence of 220 months.

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Upon release from the Bureau of Prisons, the defendant will be placed on supervised release for a term of five years as to each count to be run concurrently for a total of five years, and within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, defendant will report in person to the probation office in the district to which the defendant is released. However, while in the custody of the Bureau of

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Prisons, it is recommended that the defendant be evaluated for participation in the residential drug abuse program if that is consistent with Bureau of Prisons policies. While on supervision, the defendant will comply with the standard conditions of the Court and the following additional conditions:

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Number one, defendant will refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance and submit to a drug test within 15 days of commencement of supervision and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter for use of controlled substances. Second, the defendant will participate in a drug or alcohol abuse treatment program approved by the United States Probation Office which may include substance abuse testing, counseling, residence in a Community Corrections Center, residence in a Comprehensive Sanctions Center, Residential Re-Entry Center, or inpatient treatment in a treatment center or hospital. Defendant will pay for the costs associated with substance abuse services based on a co-payment fee established by the United States Probation Copayments will never exceed the total costs of Office. services provided. Third, defendant will submit his person, residence, office, or vehicle to a search conducted by the United States Probation Office at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner based upon reasonable suspicion of contraband or evidence of a violation of a condition of

release. Defendant will warn any other residents that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition.

Fourth, defendant will participate in a mental health program approved by the United States Probation Office.

Defendant will pay for the costs associated with the services provided based on a co-payment fee established by the United States Probation Office. Copayments will never exceed the total costs of services provided. The Court further concludes that the defendant does not have the ability to pay a fine, and lastly, it is further ordered that the defendant pay to the United States a special assessment of \$100 as to each count, One through Three, inclusive for a total of \$300 that will be due immediately. Anything further, Mr. Sison?

MR. SISON: Judge, given his lack of educational training, there are a couple of facilities that I would like the Court make some non-binding judicial recommendation to.

The first is FCI Reno, the second is FCI Butner, the third is FCI Florence, and fourth is Fort Dix. And obviously, these are facilities that he's identified where there are particular trade vocations that he could take advantage of to give himself some sort of skills once he is released from prison.

THE COURT: It will be the further order of Court by way of recommendation to the Bureau of Prisons that the defendant be considered for placement at one of the following

20 1 FCI Reno, FCI Butner, FCI Florence, or in the facilities: alternative to those three, the facility at Fort Dix. 2 3 Anything else? 4 MR. SISON: Nothing further from the defendant, Your 5 Honor. 6 THE COURT: Anything further on behalf of the 7 Government? 8 MR. BERT: No, Your Honor. 9 THE COURT: Having sentenced you accordingly, Mr. Reed, it is now my obligation to inform you of your rights 10 regarding appeal. You may appeal the sentence and judgment in 11 12 this case, but you have to do that within 14 days of the date 13 of the sentence and judgment. That means within 14 days of 14 today's date. If you do not file your appeal before that 14 15 days runs out, then you will have given up your right to 16 appeal the sentence and judgment. If you cannot afford to pay the costs of filing the appeal, you can request that the costs 17 be waived, and if, in fact, the costs are waived, then the 18 19 Clerk of the Court will file your request free of charge. 20 may file the notice of appeal and the appeal resulting 21 therefrom if you feel or believe that the sentence violated 22 the law in some fashion or is otherwise contrary to the law or 23 is void or voidable on its face. I think by virtue of your plea agreement in this case and, of course, your plea, that 24

you gave up all rights to appeal, and if you did maintain any,

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     they are limited to things that in some way relate to
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     ineffective assistance of counsel or prosecutorial misconduct.
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     Okay? Do you understand your rights of appeal as I have
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     described them to you?
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Do you have any questions regarding your
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     rights of appeal?
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              THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.
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              THE COURT: The defendant is now remanded then to the
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     custody of the marshals to begin service of his sentence
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     forthwith. Good luck to you, Mr. Reed. Thank you, Counsel.
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     We will be in recess.
                  (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 1:20 P.M.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Angela K. Daley, Registered Merit Reporter and
Certified Realtime Reporter, hereby certify that I am a duly
appointed Official Court Reporter of the United States
District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

I further certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings held in the above-entitled case and that said transcript is a true and correct transcription of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that this transcript contains

pages 1 through 21 inclusive and that this reporter takes no

responsibility for missing or damaged pages of this transcript

when same transcript is copied by any party other than this

reporter.

Dated at St. Louis, Missouri, this 1st day of August, 2011.

/S/Angela K. Daley
21 Angela K. Daley, CSR, RMR, FCRR, CRR
Official Court Reporter